

Town of Burrillville Fire Districts

Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2015

1. Call to Order:

Michael Gingell (Harrisville Fire Department) acted as Moderator and called the meeting to order at 6:18 PM and started with the Pledge of Allegiance. He reviewed the agenda items and reminded those in attendance the format of the meeting.

The following representatives from each district were present:

John Polacek – Harrisville Operating Committee
Dave Place – Harrisville Operating Committee
David Shaw – Pascoag Fire District
Robert Keable – Pascoag Fire District
Gerry Lapierre – Nasonville Operating Committee
Leah Joyal – Oakland/Mapleville Operating Committee
Robert Howe – Chief, Nasonville
Mark St. Pierre – Chief, Harrisville
Butch Carter – Chief, Pascoag
Greg McCutcheon – Deputy Chief, Wallum Lake

Others in attendance:

Janet Raymond – Nasonville Fire District
Nathan St. Pierre – Harrisville Fire District

2. Update Regarding Contact with Local State Representatives

Leah Joyal and John Polacek provided an update regarding contact with the local State Representatives. Both had reached out to Representative Keable and he indicated he would be agreeable to meeting with representatives from the local fire districts. Contact still needs to be made with Representatives Newbury and Fogarty. An update will be provided at the next meeting. The goal is to have an informal “meet and greet” with representatives from each of the fire district’s operating committees and the fire chiefs.

3. Discussion Regarding Recruitment and Retention

Mike Gingell informed the group that recruitment and retention was a topic discussed at the Northern League meeting on April 20th and that Dave Cayer (sp?) provide information about grants that are available to aid in recruitment and retention. Dave Place asked about where the districts stood in regards to current staffing and each chief and/or district representative provided information about current staffing levels.

Chief St. Pierre discussed the SAFER Grant that Scituate was awarded and the online applications that have been completed that result in statewide recruitment. He felt there were qualified candidates out there that want to volunteer but can’t in their own districts due to stations being fully staffed by career firefighters. He regularly looks at the online applications to see if there are viable candidates to be interviewed. He also felt that residency restrictions that may be in company bylaws should be reviewed and changed in order to allow individuals that want to volunteer the opportunity to do so rather than be turned away due to residency restrictions.

Other suggestions were made for recruitment such as knocking on doors and introducing the fire departments to the community, visiting schools, open houses at the fire stations, notification on tax bill regarding volunteerism, social media and joint training sessions. Chief Howe made the suggestion that discussions be had with exiting members as to why they are leaving and for those that stay, what is it that makes them stay with the fire company.

4. Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 6:15 PM at the Jesse Smith Memorial Library in Harrisville, RI.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine A. Chretien
Nasonville Fire District Clerk